GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3588
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote intermediate technology in the country;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) the number of countries with which India has signed agreements for technological collaboration and the impact thereof on the Indian Economy;

(d) whether the Government would take steps to improve the scientific capability of Indian Universities and Research Institutions; and

(e) if so, the results thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Intermediate Technology promotes the productivity which traditional technologies cannot harness and is cheap and labour intensive. The Government has been promoting intermediate technology through various programmes namely Science and Technology Application for Rural Development, Science and Technology Application for Weaker Sections, Science and Technology for Women, Science and Technology for strategic needs of Scheduled Castes under Special Component Plan, empowerment of Tribal population through S&T under Tribal Sub-Plan, Bio-technology based programmes for Rural Areas and Bio-technology based programmes for Women. In addition, the Government has set up Rural Technology Parks/ Women Technology Parks as models for showcasing technologies relevant to rural people.

(b) Results have been forthcoming in small & tiny sector, rural industry, decentralized energy generation, construction & low cost housing and land use & water management.

(c) India has signed 64 bilateral agreements for cooperation in Science & Technology. Scientific research and pre-commercial R&D activities are implemented under these agreements. The results of these are being utilized for vaccine production, extraction of essential oils, aerospace components and establishment of institutions for advanced research.

(d) & (e): Government is providing financial support to Indian universities and academic institutions under the programme 'Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in universities and higher education institutions (FIST)'. So far 189 universities and more than 600 departments have been provided Rs.230 crores in the last five years. Apart from this, more than 500 departments in various universities and academic institutions have also created a Central Computer Laboratory in the department, which is being extensively used for computational and other activities.